

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Withdrawn) An internal treatment apparatus for a patient having a flexible tubular body to be introduced into a patient, said flexible tubular body comprising:

a center opening for inserting therethrough an endoscope for observing a target site, said center opening being circular in cross section and disposed at a center of an end face of said flexible tubular body; and

a plurality of circumferential apertures through which surgical instruments are inserted for performing a surgical procedure on said target site, said plurality of circumferential apertures being provided in said flexible tubular body at equi-angular intervals around said center opening.

2. (Withdrawn) An internal treatment system for a patient comprising:

a flexible tubular body, to be introduced into a patient, said flexible tubular body including a center opening for inserting therethrough an endoscope for observing a target site, said center opening being circular in cross section and disposed at a center of an end face of said flexible tubular body, and a plurality of circumferential apertures through which surgical instruments are inserted for performing a surgical procedure on said target site, said plurality of circumferential apertures being provided in said flexible tubular body at equi-angular intervals around said center opening;

a body manipulating device for manipulating said flexible tubular body from outside said patient;

an endoscope manipulating device for manipulating said endoscope from outside said patient; and

a surgical instrument manipulating device for manipulating said surgical instruments from outside said patient.

3-4. Canceled

5. (Currently Amended) An internal treatment apparatus for a patient comprising a flexible tubular body to be introduced into a patient, said flexible tubular body comprising:

a center opening for inserting therethrough an endoscope for observing a target site, said center opening extending through said flexible tubular body from a center of a distal end face of said flexible tubular body, said distal end face facing said target site, and

a plurality of circumferential apertures through which surgical instruments are inserted for performing a surgical procedure on said target site, each of said plurality of circumferential apertures being provided to extend through a side face of said flexible tubular body ~~in an area including at~~ said distal end face ~~and a side face~~ of said flexible tubular body.

6. (Currently Amended) An internal treatment system for a patient comprising:

a flexible tubular body to be introduced into a patient, said flexible tubular body including a center opening for inserting therethrough an endoscope for observing a target site, said center opening being circular in cross section and extending through said flexible tubular body from a center of a distal end face of said flexible tubular body, said distal end face facing said target site, and a plurality of circumferential apertures through which surgical instruments

are inserted for performing a surgical procedure on said target site, each of said plurality of circumferential apertures being provided to extend through a side face of said flexible tubular body ~~in an area including at~~ said distal end face ~~and a side face~~ of said flexible tubular body;

a body manipulating device for manipulating said flexible tubular body from outside said patient;

an endoscope manipulating device for manipulating said endoscope from outside said patient; and

a surgical instrument manipulating device for manipulating said surgical instruments from outside said patient.

7. (Withdrawn) The internal treatment apparatus for a patient according to claim 1, wherein said endoscope is a stereoscopic endoscope allowing an operator to stereoscopically observe the target site.

8. (Withdrawn) The internal treatment apparatus for a patient according to claim 1, wherein

said surgical instrument comprises a monitor device allowing an operator to observe a vicinity of a distal end of said surgical instrument.

9. (Withdrawn) The internal treatment apparatus for a patient according to claim 8, wherein

said surgical instrument comprises an illumination device which allows an operator to illuminate a vicinity of said distal end of said surgical instrument with light.

10. (Withdrawn) The internal treatment apparatus for a patient according to claim 9, wherein said surgical instrument comprises at least one of an air feed device and a water feed device which allows an operator to clean a distal end of said monitor device.

11. (Withdrawn) The internal treatment system for a patient according to claim 2, further comprising an image displaying device for displaying an image formed by said endoscope.

12. (Withdrawn) The internal treatment apparatus for a patient according to claim 1, wherein said flexible tubular body comprises a resiliently deflectable portion.

13. (Withdrawn) The internal treatment apparatus for a patient according to claim 1, wherein said surgical instrument comprises a resiliently deflectable portion.

14-19. Canceled

20. (Withdrawn) The internal treatment system for a patient according to claim 2, wherein

said endoscope is a stereoscopic endoscope allowing an operator to stereoscopically observe the target site.

21. (Withdrawn) The internal treatment system for a patient according to claim 2, wherein

said surgical instrument comprises a monitor device which allows an operator to observe a vicinity of a distal end of said surgical instrument.

22. (Withdrawn) The internal treatment system for a patient according to claim 21, wherein

said surgical instrument comprises an illumination device which allows an operator to illuminate a vicinity of said distal end of said surgical instrument with light.

23. (Withdrawn) The internal treatment system for a patient according to claim 22, wherein

said surgical instrument comprises at least one of an air feed device and a water feed device which allows an operator to clean a distal end of said monitor means.

24. (Withdrawn) The internal treatment system for a patient according to claim 2, further comprising an image displaying device for displaying an image provided by said endoscope.

25. (Withdrawn) The internal treatment system for a patient according to claim 2, wherein

said flexible tubular body comprises a resiliently deflectable portion.

26. (Withdrawn) The internal treatment system for a patient according to claim 2, wherein

said surgical instrument comprises a resiliently deflectable portion.

27-34. Canceled

35. (Previously Presented) The internal treatment apparatus for a patient according to claim 5, wherein said flexible tubular body comprises a resiliently deflectable portion, and a circumferential opening portion includes said plurality of circumferential apertures, and the circumferential opening portion passes through the apparatus body from a side face of the deflectable portion toward a proximal end face of the apparatus body.

36. (Previously Presented) The internal treatment system for a patient according to claim 6, wherein said flexible tubular body comprises a resiliently deflectable portion, and a circumferential opening portion includes said plurality of circumferential apertures, and the circumferential opening portion passes through the apparatus body from a side face of the deflectable portion toward a proximal end face of the apparatus body.